

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 5, 15 and 23 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 16, 17, 24 and 25 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 15, 18-20, 23 and 26-28 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 17-19 and 25-27 have been indicated as allowable. This indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated. Claims 19 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form.

In addition, claims 5-14 have been allowed. With respect to the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, it is agreed that the features recited by the Examiner are not taught or suggested by the art of record, and that some or all of the allowed claims are distinguished from the art of record for at least the reasons stated. Applicant does not concede that the stated reasons are the only grounds for patentability of the allowed claims, that the claim limitations excluded from the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter are taught or suggested by the art of record, or that all of the limitations are necessary for patentability of the allowed claims or other claims directed to the disclosed subject matter. Additionally, each allowed claim stands on its own.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Green et al (US 2005/0252605). Claims 15-16, 20-22, 23-24, and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Green et al in view of Grabau et al. (US 2002/0195195 A1). These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 16 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 5. Independent claims 15 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claims 17 and 25, respectively. Claims 20-22 and 28-30 now depend from allowable claims 19 and 27, respectively. Thus, the current rejections have been obviated by the present amendment, and withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of the claims does not signify concession of unpatentability of the claims prior to this amendment.

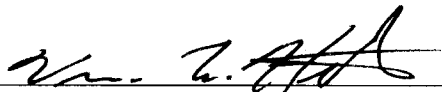
It is respectfully suggested for all of these reasons, that the current rejections are overcome, that none of the cited art teaches or suggests the features which are claimed, and

therefore that all of these claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Please apply the three month extension of time fee, and any other necessary charges or credits, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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